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COMICS® WEEKLY

BLACKHAWK™ RETURNS to ACTION!



PLUS:

GREEN
LANTERN
BLACK
CANARY
SECRET SIX
NIGHTWING
SUPERMAN

JUMP BACK

'Cause new, improved Trix® is so sweet and fruity and brightly colored, now you gotta wear shades when you eat it!!

Directions: Prop this page against a chair or a wall, jump back 10 steps, and check out the picture that appears.

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GREEN LANTERN: "HEROES"

...AND HERE'S AN UPDATE ON THAT BUILDING THAT NEARLY COLLAPSED THIS MORNING. EMERGENCY CREWS ARE ON THE SCENE... FIRE-FIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ARE SEARCHING THE BUILDING FOR TRAPPED OFFICE WORKERS.

IT WAS APPROXIMATELY SIX O'CLOCK THIS MORNING WHEN THE BUILDING INEXPLODABLY SANK FIFTEEN FEET INTO THE GROUND. EXPERTS ARE BAFLED BY THE INCIDENT.

CITY PLANNERS FEAR MAJOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM THE BUILDING SINKING, AND HAVE ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA.

WE NOW JOIN JANEL POWELL ON THE SCENE...

by
**JAMES M.D.
OWSLEY & BRIGHT**
SCRIPT / PLOT / PENCIL

ROMEO TANGHAL
INKS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN
LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORIST
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DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR

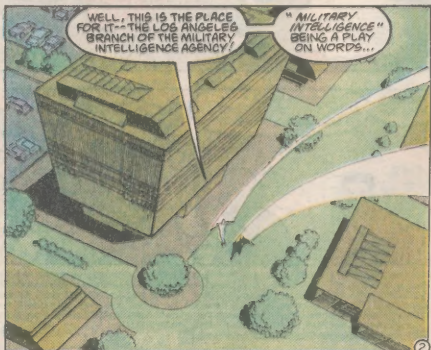
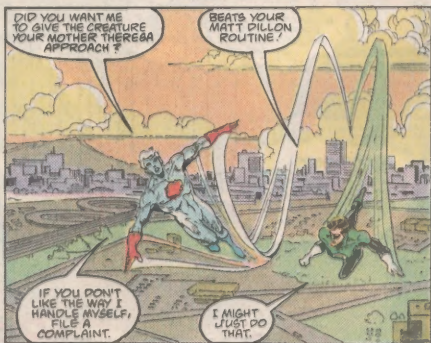
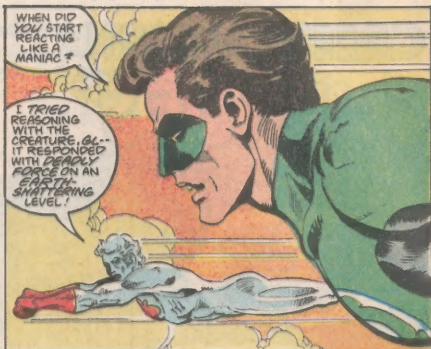
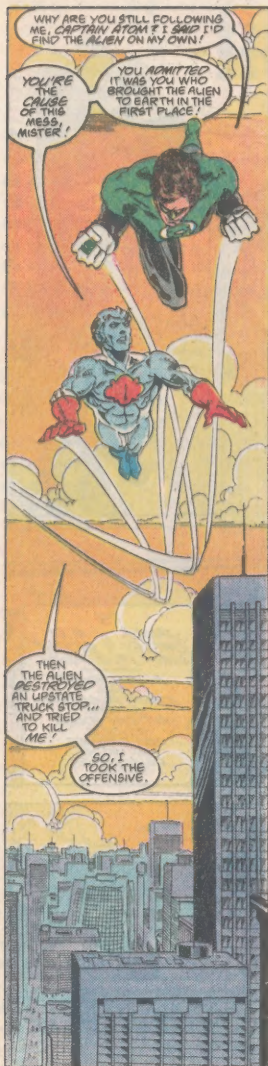
THANKS, CHUCK.

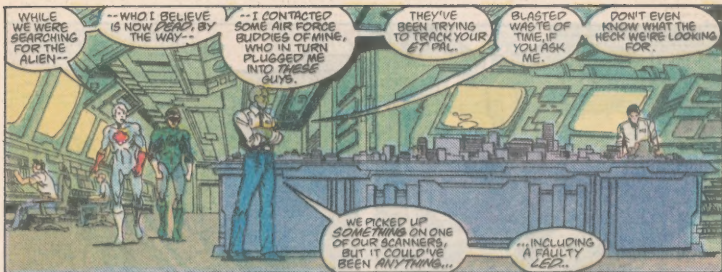
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THE STORY BROKE, INTERVIEWING WITNESSES...

HEY... LADY...!!

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY 628, November 29, 1988, (USPS 004-480) Published weekly with the exception of the last week of the year by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1981, New York, NY 10185. Annual subscription rate \$78.00. Outside U.S.A. \$86.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1988 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.

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WHILE WE WERE SEARCHING FOR THE ALIEN--

--WHO I BELIEVE IS NOW DEAD, BY THE WAY--

--I CONTACTED SOME AIR FORCE BUDDIES OF MINE, WHO IN TURN PLUGGED ME INTO THESE GUYS.

THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO TRACK YOUR ET PAL.

BLASTED WASTE OF TIME, IF YOU ASK ME.

DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE HECK WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

WE PICKED UP SOMETHING ON ONE OF OUR SCANNERS, BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN ANYTHING...

...INCLUDING A FAULTY LED...



POWER OUTAGES ACROSS THE CITY KEEP KNOCKING OUR SYSTEMS OUT, SIR.

SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON WITH THE POWER HERE IN L.A..

MAKES IT REAL HARD TO TRACK YOUR BOGEY. YOU CAN'T KILL WHAT YOU CAN'T FIND!

EAST



KILL?

YOU'RE PLANNING TO KILL THE ALIEN?!

RIGHT ON, EINSTEIN.

I'D POLITELY ASK IT TO CEASE, DESIST, AND MAKE NICEY-NICE BUT I DON'T THINK IT GLOMS OUR LINGO!

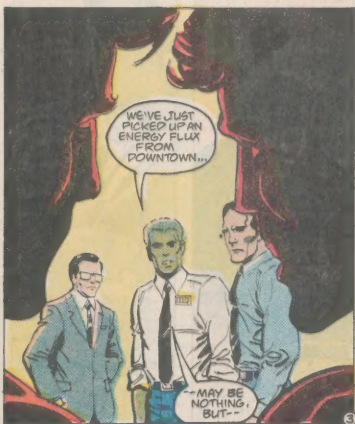
BUT KILLING IT--



-- IS A NECESSARY AND REASONABLE RESPONSE TO A DEADLY THREAT!

WHO TOLD YOU THAT, THE WAR FAIRY?

CAPTAIN--

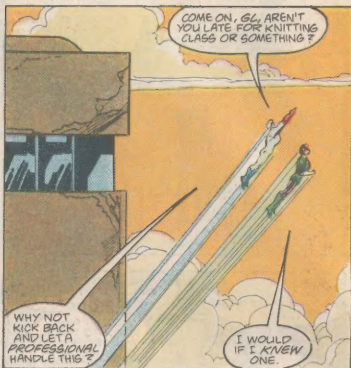


WE'VE JUST PICKED UP AN ENERGY FLUX FROM DOWNTOWN...

--MAY BE NOTHING, BUT--



I'M ON MY WAY!



WHY NOT KICK BACK AND LET A PROFESSIONAL HANDLE THIS?

I WOULD IF I KNEW ONE.

WHY AM I BEING SO HARD ON CAPTAIN ATOM? COULD IT BE THAT I MADE A HUGE MISTAKE IN BRINGING THE ALIEN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

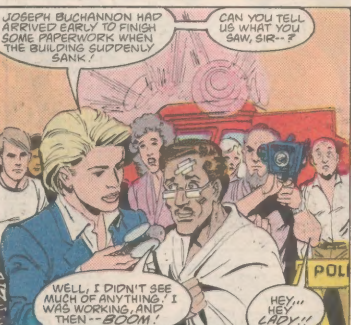
WHY AM I RIDING THIS GUY SO HARD? HE'S JUST DOING WHAT HE THINKS IS BEST! COULD I JUST BE OVERREACTING...



...GETTING HACKED OFF AT LANTERN BECAUSE MAYBE I DID GOOF BACK THERE IN THE FOREST?

AM I ANGRY BECAUSE G'S RIGHT--?

COULD IT BE THAT HE'S RIGHT?



CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU SAW, SIR--?

JOSEPH BUCHANNON HAD ARRIVED EARLY TO FINISH SOME PAPERWORK WHEN THE BUILDING SUDDENLY SANK!

WELL, I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF ANYTHING. I WAS WORKING, AND THEN--BOOM!

HEY, HEY LADY!!



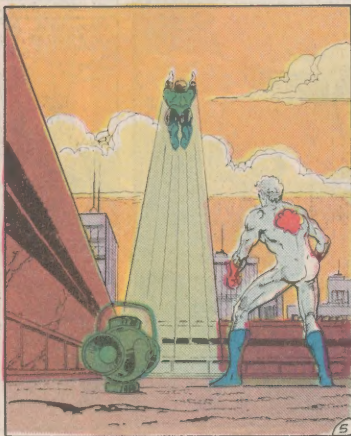
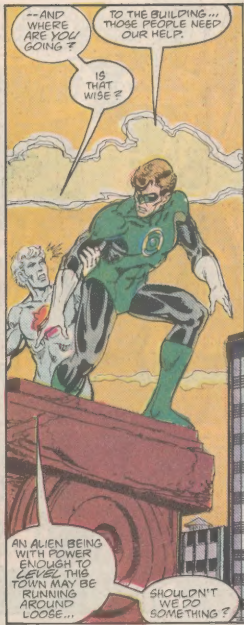
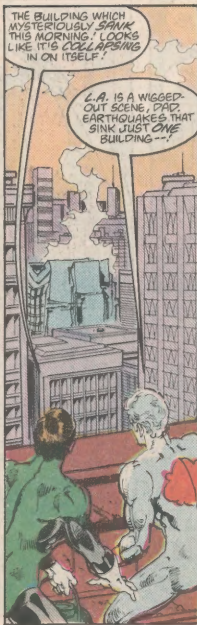
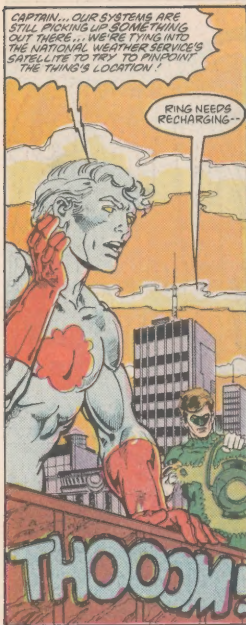
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

THIS ISN'T WORKING.

NEITHER MY RING NOR THE MILITARY'S VARIOUS TRACKING SYSTEMS CAN FIND A TRACE OF THE ALIEN!

YOU'RE SURE HE WASN'T KILLED WHEN I TOTALLED HIS SHIP?

I STRONGLY DOUBT IT.

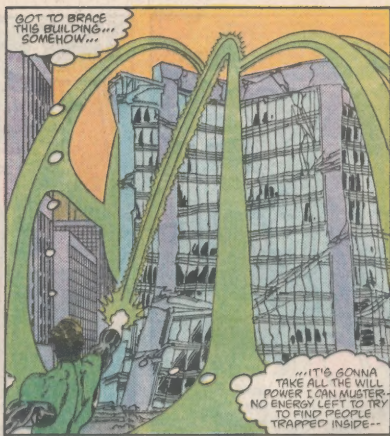




... THE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
HAVING FINALLY TAKEN ITS TOLL,
THE BUILDING HAS BEGUN TO
SLOWLY COLLAPSE IN ON
ITSELF...

GREAT
GUARDIANS!

LOCAL AUTHORITIES
ARE STILL INSIDE,
TRYING TO AIRLIFT
STRANDED OFFICE
WORKERS...



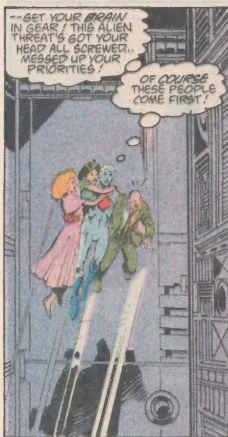
GOT TO BRACE
THIS BUILDING...
SOMEHOW...

...IT'S GONNA
TAKE ALL THE WILL
POWER I CAN MUSTER--
NO ENERGY LEFT TO TRY
TO FIND PEOPLE
TRAPPED INSIDE--



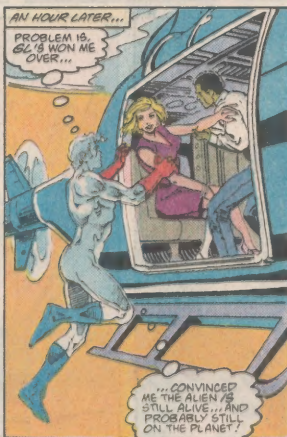
-- WELL, WELL!
MAYBE THE GOOD
CAPTAIN'S NOT
SUCH A JERK
AFTER ALL!

COME ON,
ADAM--



--GET YOUR BRAIN
IN GEAR! THIS ALIEN
THREAT'S GOT YOUR
HEAD ALL SCREWED...
MESSED UP YOUR
PRIORITIES!

OF COURSE
THESE PEOPLE
COME FIRST!



AN HOUR LATER...

PROBLEM IS,
SL'S WON ME
OVER...

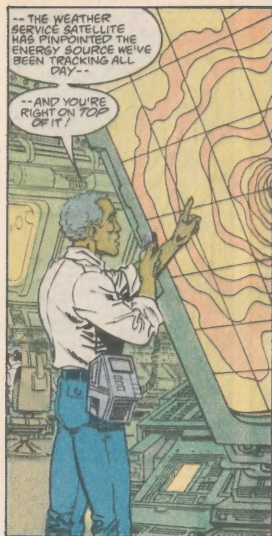
... CONVINCED
ME THE ALIEN IS
STILL ALIVE... AND
PROBABLY STILL
ON THE PLANET!



ALSO, THE ALIEN'S
HOSTILITY MAY BE
PARTLY MY FAULT!

I'VE GOT TO
MAKE THINGS
RIGHT!

CAPTAIN
ATOM--



-- THE WEATHER SERVICE SATELLITE HAS PINPOINTED THE ENERGY SOURCE WE'VE BEEN TRACKING ALL DAY--

-- AND YOU'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF IT!



MEANWHILE...

CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.

I'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT TRYING TO FIND THE ALIEN... I'M EXHAUSTED... KEEPING THIS BUILDING TOGETHER IS TAKING ALL MY CONCENTRATION... ALL MY WILL!

WITH QA'S HELP THE BUILDING SHOULD BE COMPLETELY CLEAR IN A FEW--EH?

-- WHAT'S THAT MAN SAYING--?



-- I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION ALL DAY, LADY. YOU SAID YOU WANTED WITNESSES... WELL, I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!

I'M CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE. I GOT HERE AT SIX A.M., AND WAS DOWN IN MY OFFICE IN THE BASEMENT! THAT'S WHEN I SAW HIM!

SAW WHO, SIR?

TEARING CHUNKS OUT OF THE FOUNDATION... IT WAS...

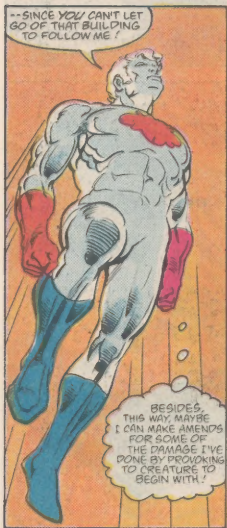
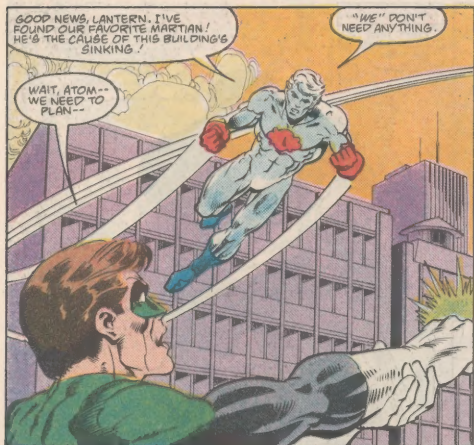


-- RANDY VIOLENT!

RAN--

-- THAT WAS GUINE THE ALIEN ASSUMED YESTERDAY--

-- THE ALIEN IS RIGHT HERE!!



NEXT: SO LONG AGO THE GARDEN...

BLACK CANARY

knock 'em DEAD

PART 5

Sharon Wright writer

Randy DuBurke penciller

Pablo Marcos inker

Steve Haynie letterer

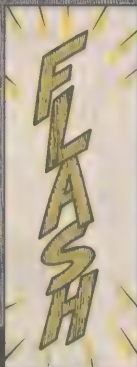
Gene D'Angelo colorist

Robert Greenberger editor



332674

5E



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5E

LEFT

FINGER PRINTS

THUMB

THUMB

RIGHT

FINGER PRINTS

"LT. CAMERON'S
FISK, DOWNTOWN

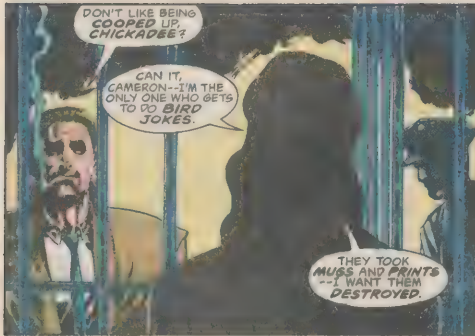
"LISTEN, WE PICKED UP
A JANE DOE LAST
NIGHT ON SUSPICION.

"SHE MATCHES THE
DESCRIPTION FOR THE
SUSPECT IN THAT
BARFLY KILLING.

"NOPE, NO CHLORAL HYDRATE
-- BUT NO I.D. AND SHE WAS
CARRYIN' A CYANIDE STASH.

"WON'T TALK... KEEPS
INSISTING THAT WE
CALL YOU AND SAY...

"...THAT THE BLACK CANARY
WILL SING WHEN OUT OF
THE CASE."



DON'T LIKE BEING
COOPED UP,
CHICKADEE?

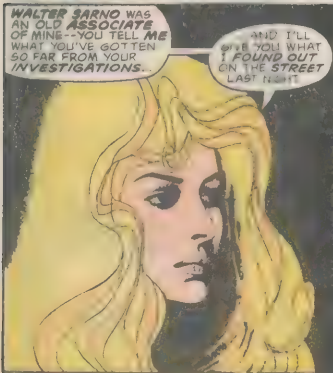
CAN IT,
CAMERON--I'M THE
ONLY ONE WHO GETS
TO DO BIRD
JOKES.

THEY TOOK
MUSS AND PRINTS
--I WANT THEM
DESTROYED.



YES, MA'AM...
I'LL DO MY
BEST.

DIDN'T
SOMEONE SAY
SOMETHING
ABOUT
SINGING'?



WALTER SARNO WAS
AN OLD ASSOCIATE
OF MINE--YOU TELL ME
WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN
SO FAR FROM YOUR
INVESTIGATIONS...

AND I'LL
GIVE YOU WHAT
I FOUND OUT
ON THE STREET
LAST NIGHT



OKAY, IT'S NOT
MUCH--DEATH
BY CORONARY
ARREST,
INDUCED BY A
MICKY FINN OF
CHLORAL
HYDRATE.

SARNO HAD A
WEAK HEART
DUE TO A
PREVIOUS
CORONARY.

BLONDE HAIRS
--NATURAL COLOR--
FOUND AT THE SCENE
BEAR OUT THE PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTION OF THE
SUSPECT...

...AND
A RETRIEVED
CIGARETTE BUTT
WAS ALSO HERS
--NOT ENOUGH SPIT
TO DO AN
ANALYSIS...

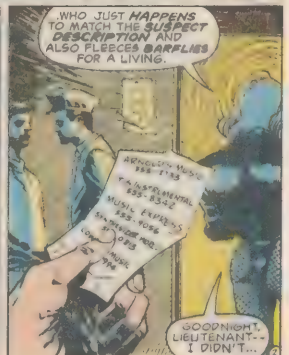


...OUR KILLER SMOKES
UNFILTERED LUCKIES
--NOT A COMMON
FEMALE PREFERENCE.

YOUR
TURN

FROM YELLOW
PAGES BRUCENOLLY
GIVEN BY SEATTLE'S
FINEST--YOU'LL
FIND A GUY NAMED
RICH AT ONE OF
THOSE NUMBERS.

HES THE
SOLE SUPPLIER
OF HEROIN TO A
JUNKIE NAMED
DEBORAH...

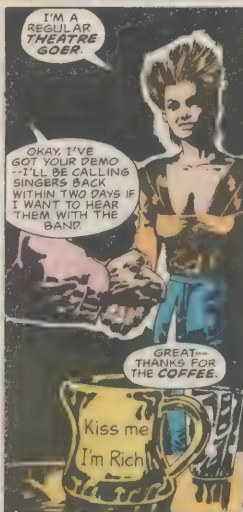


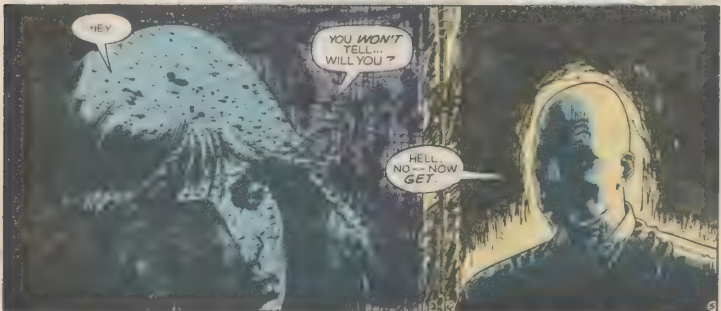
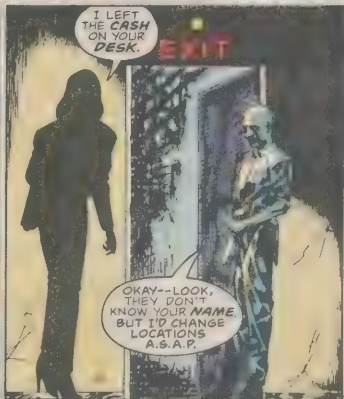
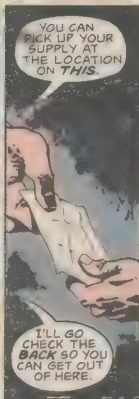
WHO JUST HAPPENS
TO MATCH THE SUSPECT
DESCRIPTION AND
ALSO FLEECES BARFLIES
FOR A LIVING.

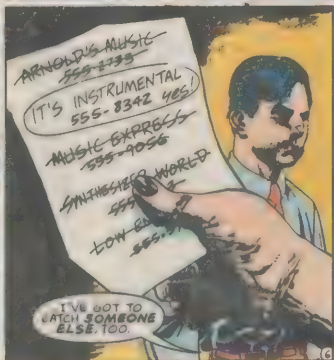
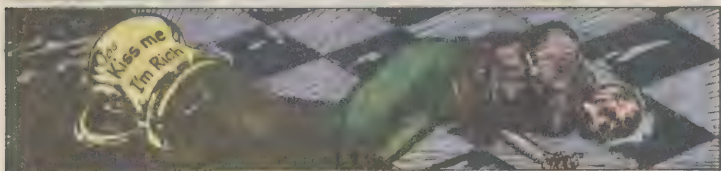
ARMED AND DANGEROUS
\$35-1785
FURNITURE
\$35-8342
MUSIC CENTER
\$35-1056
SANDWICHES
\$35-1053
LONG
\$35-1785

GOODNIGHT,
LIEUTENANT--
I DIDN'T...



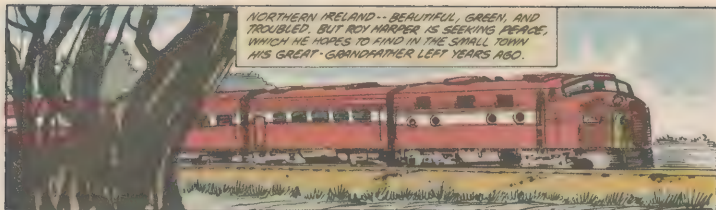






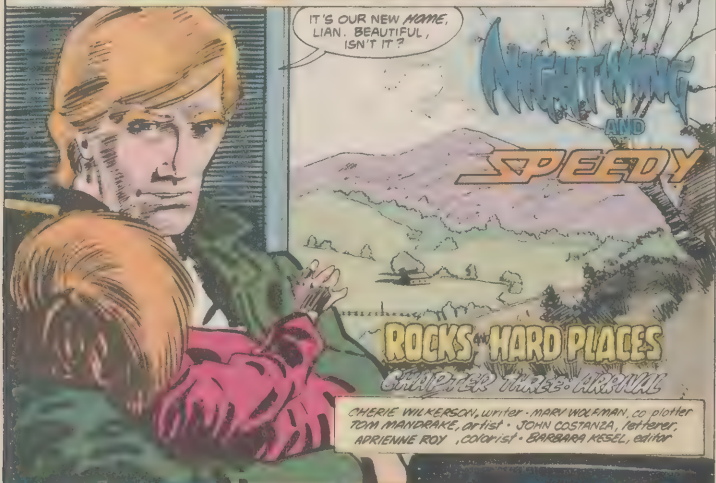


**CONTINUED
NEXT WEEK!**



NORTHERN IRELAND-- BEAUTIFUL, GREEN, AND TROUBLED. BUT ROY HARPER IS SEEKING PEACE, WHICH HE HOPES TO FIND IN THE SMALL TOWN HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER LEFT YEARS AGO.

THE COUNTRYSIDE IS PASTORAL AND SERENE-- FAR FROM THE VIOLENCE OF THE LARGE CITIES

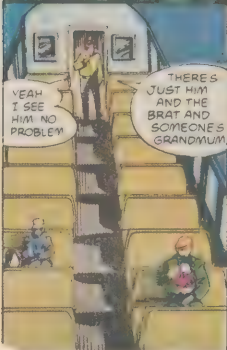


IT'S OUR NEW HOME, LIAN. BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

NIGHTMARE
AND
SPEEDY

ROCKS HARD PLACES

CHERIE WILKERSON, WRITER • MARI WOLFGARTEN, CO PLOTTER
TOM MANDRAKE, ARTIST • JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY, COLORIST • BARBARA KESEL, EDITOR



YEAH I SEE HIM NO PROBLEM

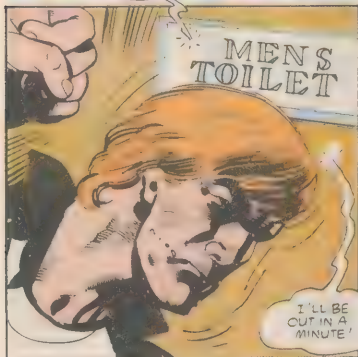
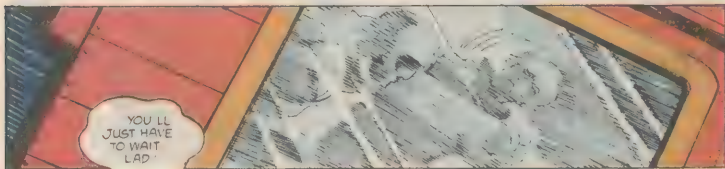
THERE'S JUST HIM AND THE BRAT AND SOMEONE'S GRANDMUM

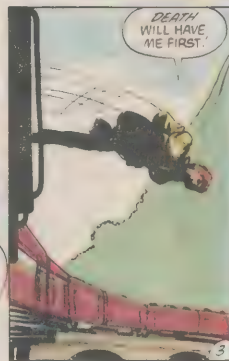


WHAT'S THAT? OH AYE, I'LL BE GLAD TO HOLD HER

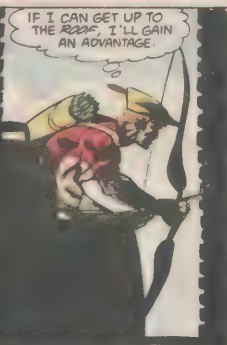
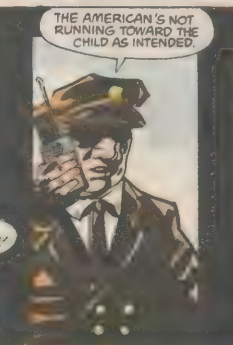
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

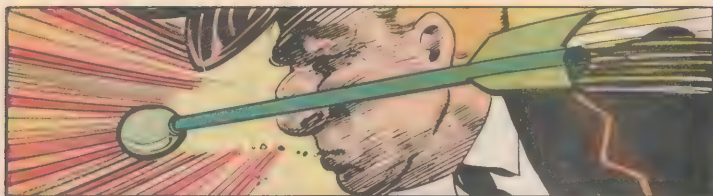












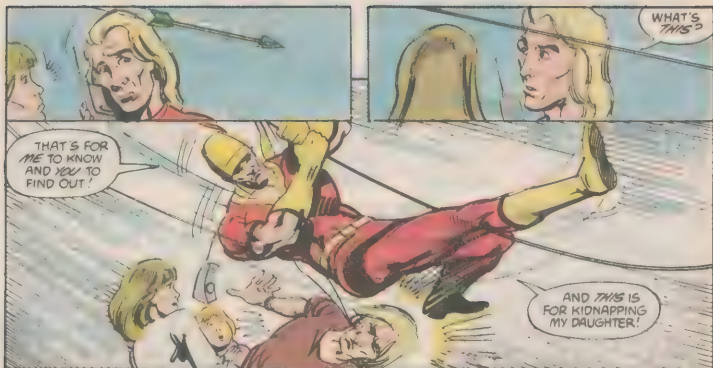
LIAN'S
VOICE CAME
FROM THIS
DIRECTION

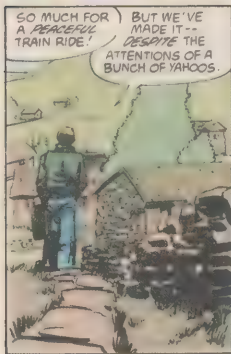
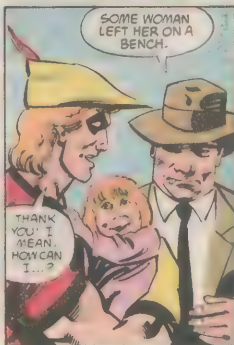
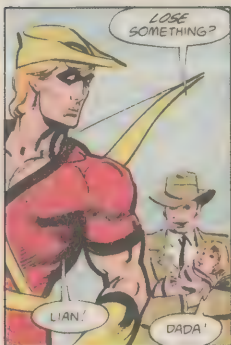


THERE
SHE IS!

HMMM, GOT TO COMPEN-
SATE FOR THE BREEZE
COMING IN FROM THE
LEFT.







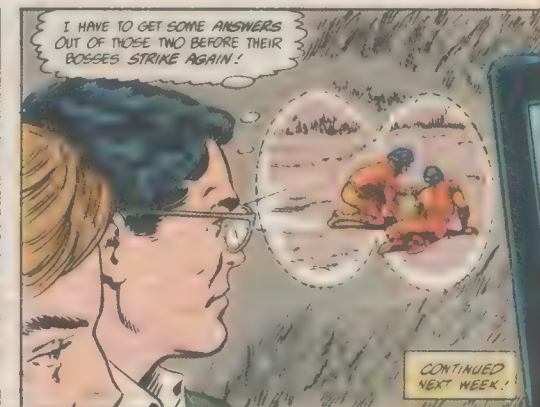
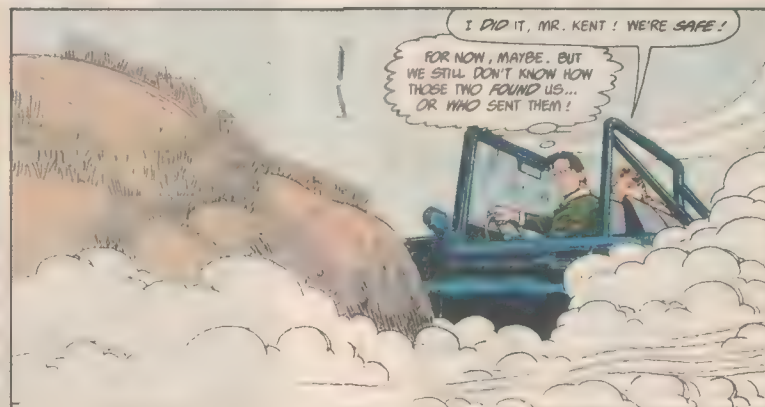
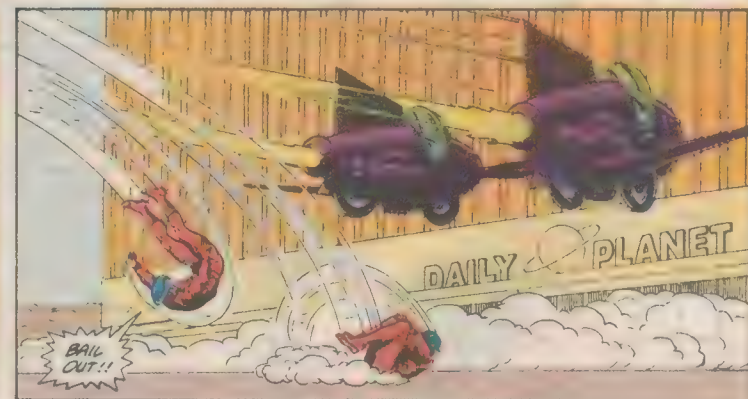
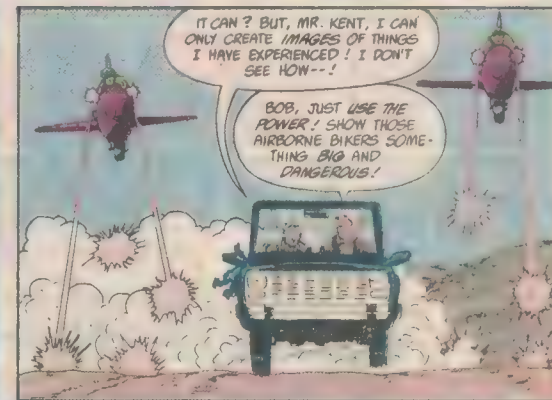
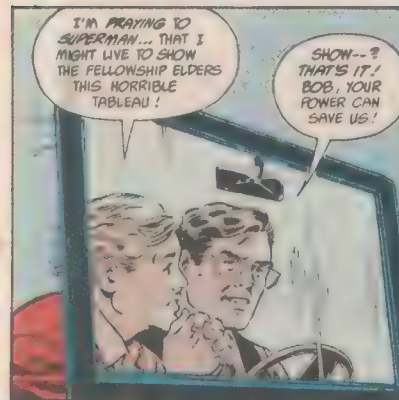
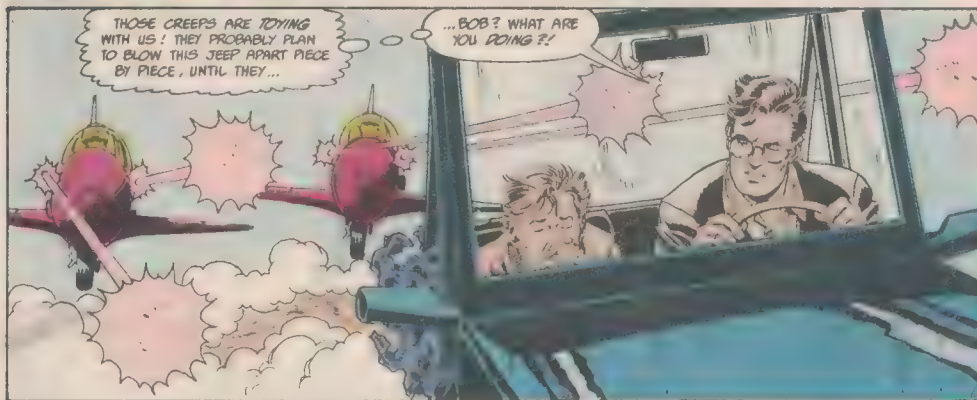
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SEIBER &
JOE SHUSTER

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: REPORTER CLARK KENT (SECRETLY SUPERMAN) HAS JOURNEYED TO CALIFORNIA WITH YOUNG BOB GALT, IN HOPES OF LEARNING MORE ABOUT BOB'S STRANGE SUPERMAN-WORSHIPING FELLOWSHIP. BUT A PAIR OF SUPER-ASSASSINS ARE DETERMINED TO STOP THEM!

WIPEOUT!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



DAILY PLANET

Issue Number MXLLL

35¢

INVASION FIRST STRIKE!



1. The South Pacific
2. N.Y.C. Metropolis
3. Paradise Island

4. The Arctic Circle
5. California
6. Cuba

The South Pacific—U.S. troops trapped under enemy fire in the South Pacific were joined in their battle against the alien invasion force by Firestorm, Firehawk, Power Girl, and Starman. Warriors of the Kluudish race have overrun a wide area of the South Pacific where numerous islands remain under their control despite heavy resistance from the military...

New York City—The Justice League International itself came under attack in their New York City embassy by a squadron of minaturized alien killers which infiltrated their headquarters via the

League's own teleporter device. There have been unconfirmed reports that the entire League has fallen to the invading hordes...

Paradise Island—The extraterrestrial threat that has struck Earth has also hit Paradise Island, home of the Amazons. The Princess Diana, also known as Wonder Woman, has allied herself with members of the Justice League International and Black Canary to combat the invaders sweeping across the ancient Amazon homeland...

Metropolis—While the heroes of Earth do battle with the alien invasion forces

around the globe, hordes of Thanagarian soldiers have attacked Metropolis, giving rise to questions surrounding the whereabouts of the city's resident hero, the planet's mightiest protector, Superman. Reports have come out of Metropolis concerning the Man of Steel's mysterious absence, leaving the defense of that city against the invaders in the hands of the hero known only as Gangbuster...

The Arctic Circle—Scattered reports from the Arctic indicate that a member of The Doom Patrol has died in undersea combat against a detachment of the alien invasion force. According to reliable sources, the Patrol, the Sea Devils, and Aquaman and the Atlantean army engaged the forces of the aquatic Gil'Dishpan race beneath the Arctic icecap, leading to the death of the as-yet-unnamed team member...

California—Members of the alien invasion armada selected California's San Andreas Fault as a focal point for the attack against the American West Coast. A being identified as a Thanagarian hawk-warrior threatening the fault on the California earthquake line with an atomic bomb has come up against stiff resistance from the West Coast hero, Animal Man...

Cuba—The island republic of Cuba has become the latest area hit by the combined forces of the alien invasion. Reports out of Havana indicate that the American hero Flash has appeared on the scene to combat the invaders. There have also been unconfirmed rumors that the mysterious masked vigilantes known as The Batman and Manhunter have become involved, in separate instances, with the resistance effort...

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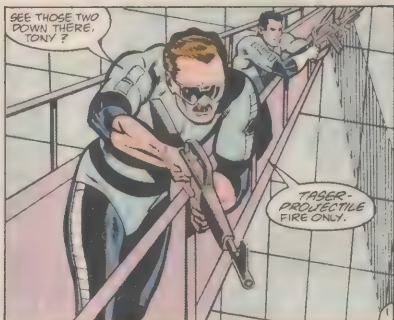
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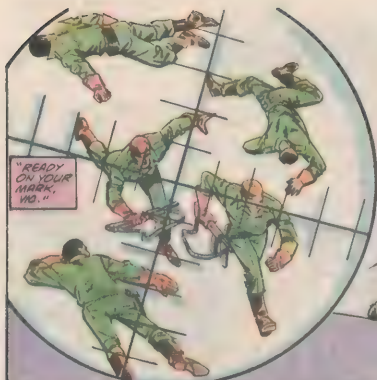
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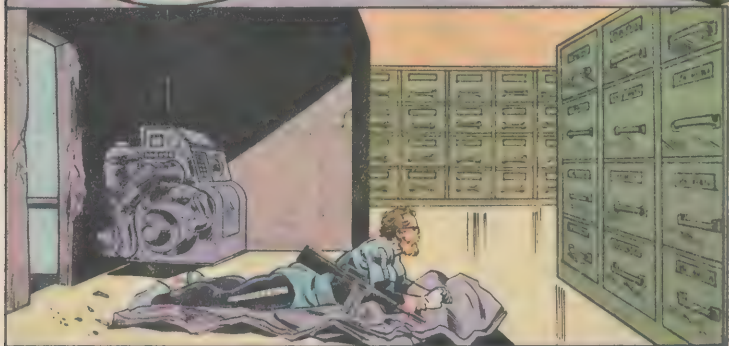
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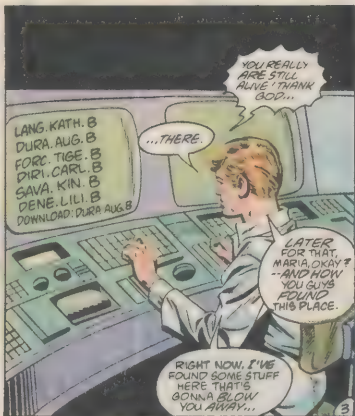
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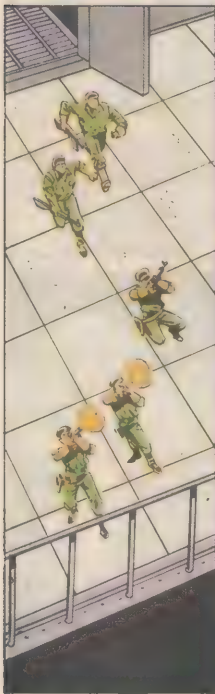
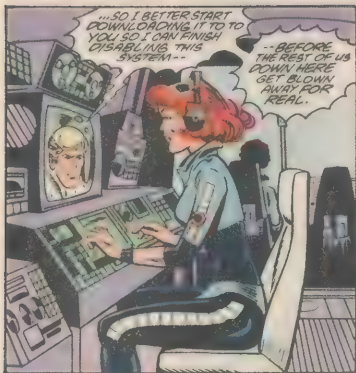


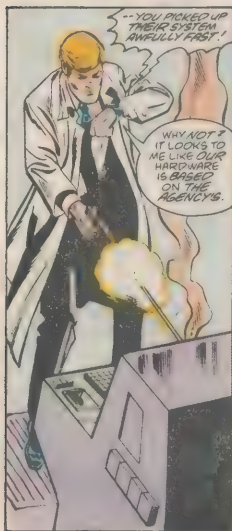


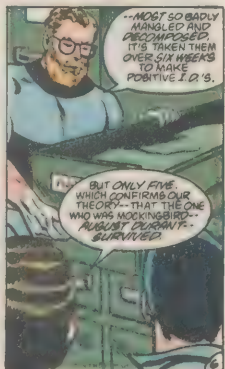
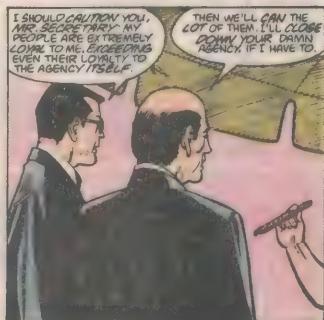
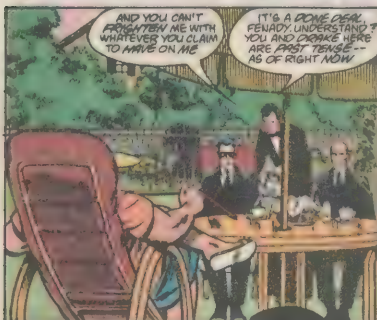
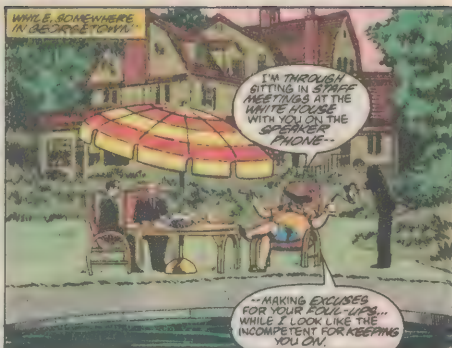
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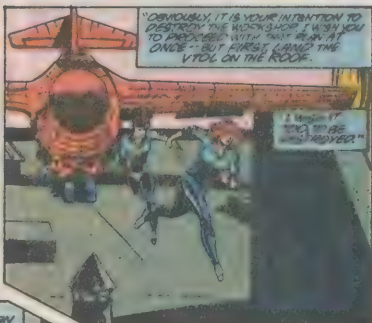
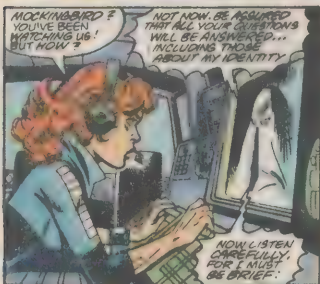
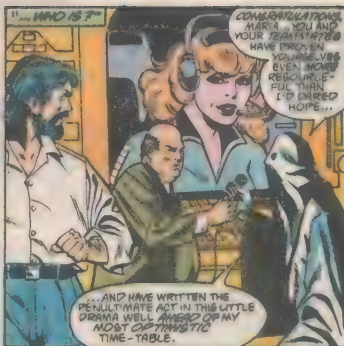
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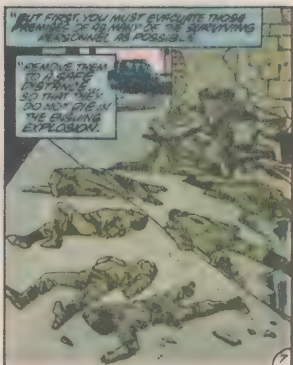




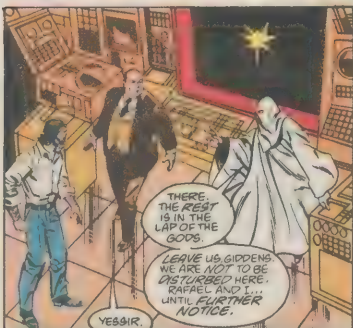




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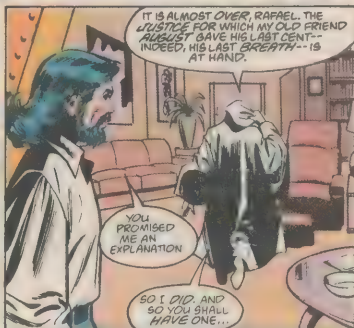
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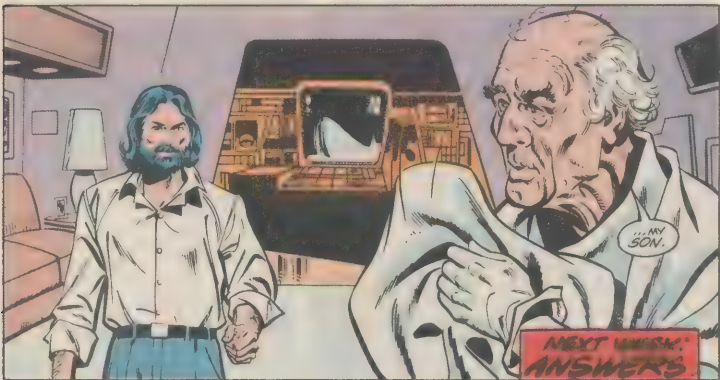
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To whom it may concern:

What I would like to see in the future for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY would be...

1) To drop down to five stories a month.

2) Start each issue with a nine-page Green Lantern story.

3) End each issue with a nine-page Superman story.

4) In the middle, have an eight-page "Showcase Presents" featuring something new in the DC universe.

5) Have a story featuring characters who have their own book. I don't read everything DC publishes, so I don't know if I am missing something I shouldn't. If you rotated in all of your current titles, I would know if I were missing something I wanted to read in one of your titles like THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES or SUICIDE SQUAD.

6) Last, I would like to see an eight-page story featuring all the rotating characters. Each story could rotate in and out. Wild Dog would run for one month, then be replaced by Deadman, and so on. This would give the second string heroes a chance to shine if they can.

7) I would like to see covers by the interior artist. I would also like to see the covers have more to do with the stories inside. In the past, only seven out of seventeen covers related to the inside story.

8) I would like to have a copy of DIRECT CURRENTS stapled in the center of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY.

9) I would like to see ACTION COMICS WEEKLY become your best seller.

Reverend Grant R. Kent
Universal Life Church Inc
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Thanks for your suggestions. We've followed a few of them since you've written, we all wish we could offer more Superman here in ACTION. It's taken some time, but if things work out, you'll be seeing more of The Man of Steel in these pages in about five months.

Dear Mike

You know, thinking these letters every week could get to be fun. I'm beginning to understand why T.M. Maple carries on the way he does.

A question—in this issue's lettercol, you mention that #636 will feature the debut of several new series. Well, no,

I'm not going to make suggestions; I'm sure you've already worked out who will appear. My question is, how do you decide which characters to try out? Obviously, you want characters popular enough to make fanboys run screaming into comic shops with wads of bills in their fists, but what other criteria are applied?

See you next week.

Marc Kevin Hall
820 N.E. 7th Street, #1
Hallandale, FL 33009

We decide by reading your letters, by talking with you folks when we appear at comics shops and at conventions, and by seeing which of the dozens of great ideas proposed to us by writers and artists would be most in demand. Does it work? You'll see in ACW #636.

THE GREAT ACTION COMICS WEEKLY POLLI

ACW #615 (previous issue's standing in parenthesis)

- #1—Nightwing (1)
- #2—Green Lantern (3)
- #3—Blackhawk (2)
- #4—Wild Dog (4)
- #5—Phantom Stranger (new)
- #6—Superman (5)

Dear Mike,

This week, as fast, the features I normally despise were enjoyable, while those I normally like, well... bit the big one.

Wild Dog, normally too simplistic and Rambo-esque for my tastes, had another creative, intelligent installment with action, plot twists, and some commentary on the nature of hero worship. Likewise, Blackhawk's rebirth continued to please me. Under Pasko, the risqué elements of the strip are retained (did Olaf really say the "a" word?), without making it hard to like the characters. It's nice to see the whole Blackhawk gang back together, instead of just a one-man team.

Nightwing continued with crisp art, suspense (don't let Roy die!), and well-done fight scenes, but the series is just too depressing. Would it hurt to let these people smile now and then?

Meanwhile, the other features continued their slides. Everyone in the Green Lantern strip is acting without

motivation again, like in the terrible Owsley days. Arisia and Hal have no reason to snap at each other like that! C'mon, Peter, you're incredibly talented; bring this strip back to its former glory. Phantom Stranger, a great concept, once more suffered from too much incomprehensible mystic mumbo-jumbo. Superman, with great Swan art, was still too short.

David Metz
2952 N. Stowell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #617.

Sorry, folks, but I'm still going with the Nightwing story line. They just keep getting better! "Chapter Five—Motives" was so great that you could have left out the dialogue and kept the side-boxes to let us know what was going on and it still would have been a great story!!! I loved it and want more—much more. Keep Nightwing in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY forever, please.

Thank you for everything.

Michelle E. Koller
64174 Campground Road
Romeo, MI 48065

RE ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #617

As I was reading Blackhawk, I kept thinking to myself, how can they get this into a Code approved book, and then I finished it and looked at the cover. There's no Comics Code label anywhere to be seen. Is this because you didn't submit this book to them or because they didn't approve it?

Anyway, Green Lantern was great, but I still believe he deserves his own book. I'll bet the lady in the shadows on page 3 is Star Sapphire.

And about the Phantom Stranger. This is the only Phantom Stranger segment that I haven't particularly liked, but, in my opinion, he and Blackhawk are this book's best features.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Allen
6398 Camden Ave
San Jose, CA 95120

In point of fact, we do not submit ACW to the Comics Code Authority. We feel the price alone (\$6.00 a month) tends to chase away the younger readers whose interests the Code attempts to protect.

Dear DC,

I have been with you since ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #601. I have loved each and every issue so far, and I expect to continue enjoying future issues; however, this is the first time I have written to any comic. I have a small problem with rating your features. They're just too darn good! They're all excellent series, and I just love them all. And you want me to pick my favorites? What madness is this? I would rather see us rate all the monthly titles you put out, and then get rid of the lower ranking ones, than give up these features. I just don't think it's fair to rate them against one another.

Moving onward, I tend to agree with the majority of readers. The Superman stories are just too short to hold a candle to the other series. Another change I would not mind would be to see Nightwing in SOLO ACTION (i.e., by himself) I hope this will be the last of Speedy for a while.

I have only one more major complaint. When a series enters the book at a certain place (i.e., second story of that issue), please, please, leave it there. Green Lantern has been the first story in each issue, with the exception of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #609. When I open up ACTION COMICS WEEKLY each week, I expect to read Green Lantern first. However, with Superman, The Secret Six, Nightwing, and Deadman, I've had to search them out. To me, it tends to break up the continuity from issue to issue. I finish Green Lantern, and think, oh-boy, it's time to see what happened with Nightwing. I turn the page, and there's Blackhawk. I, personally, find it disorienting, and I hope you will address this issue.

Keep up the good work, and my congratulations go out to all parties involved in making ACTION COMICS WEEKLY the first comic I read every week. My hat is off to you all.

Patrick J. Fenimore
433 W. Calle Antonia
Tucson, AZ 85706

We've been trying to keep each feature in the same position, Pat, but the demands of our advertisers tend to mess that up a bit. With some features seven pages, others eight, and Superman two, at least we have been able to keep ads from running in the middle of stories.

.....

Dear Mike,

As I sit here on this humid July afternoon, I listen to Rick Astley on the radio. I watch the building across the street burn, and I read ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #617.

Which, you might ask, is more entertaining? Well, burning buildings were never my style, and if you've heard one Rick Astley song, you've heard them all (and I loved them all). But ACTION COMICS WEEKLY is different. It's unique! It's entertaining! It's weekly! (No kidding!)

I must say something. This book needs more variety. I can hear you now

.. "We give this guy six—SIX—different features every week, and he still wants more!?" Yes, I want more! You've got hundreds of characters who are currently in limbo, with nothing to do, but who are good characters. Do more of a rotation. More special Showcase features. (The Catwoman feature was fantastic, and all too short.) Do something more.

Keep up the good work, so this book will get better. It has so much potential.

J. Michael Ryan
830 Sixth Ave., #B10
San Diego, CA 92101

I sort of like burning buildings, myself.

.....

Dear Mike Gold,

What the "PHUG" do you think you're doing? You must be "PORKED" in the head if you think the latest installment of Blackhawk was in any way suitable for a general audience comic book. What's next? Lois Lane "SUGGING" Superman's "COG?"

You owe the parents of America a big apology. Don't get me wrong; I think the Blackhawk story was the best in issue #617, but it shouldn't have been there in the first place. I also enjoyed *Full Metal Jacket*, but I don't think it should be part of the Saturday morning cartoon lineup!

"With great power comes great responsibility," but you "PHUGGED" it up! I am the father of a bright seven-year-old girl who asked to read one of the new comics I had just brought. I started to give her ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #617, because of the shorter length of the stories, but gave her Superman instead so that I could read ACTION. Thank God I did! I have enough trouble explaining tampon commercials.

To sum it up: I trusted you! Comics never steered me wrong when I was a child, and though they have "grown up" quite a bit since then, I've never found vulgarity and crudeness very grown up. The innuendo of previous installments didn't bother me because it was well written and should have gone over the heads of any younger readers, but this was as blatant as a side view of Green Lantern at a urinal.

I have nothing against you personally, Mr. Gold, but if this is your idea of editing, you should be out of a job.

I know this letter won't see print, but I do hope it's read and understood.

Tom Roche
134 N. Decker Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21224

Sorry, but I love a challenge. I understand your points and I sympathize with your position, Tom. The fact of the matter is, the comic book medium is no longer just for kids. As a long-time worker in the youth social services field, I applaud you for checking out your child's reading material before you pass it along to her. Those are the actions of a responsible parent.

On the other hand, it is appearing more and more clear that thematically

our Blackhawk feature is out of pace with the rest of ACW. It's tough to remove our most popular feature (over the course of our first 17 issues) from the book, but it appears to me that the most responsible thing to do would be to spin Blackhawk out of ACW and into its own series, labelled "for mature readers."

So that's just what we're going to do. Outside of rather unusual guest appearances in ACW #635 and #642, Blackhawk's last appearance in these pages will be in ACW #634.

And BLACKHAWK #1 will follow about a month and one-half later.

.....

Next week: Green Lantern! Superman! Blackhawk! Nightwing! Black Canary! The Secret Six! ACTION as you like it, and a Secret Six cover by Dick Rockwell! Wow!

See you in seven!

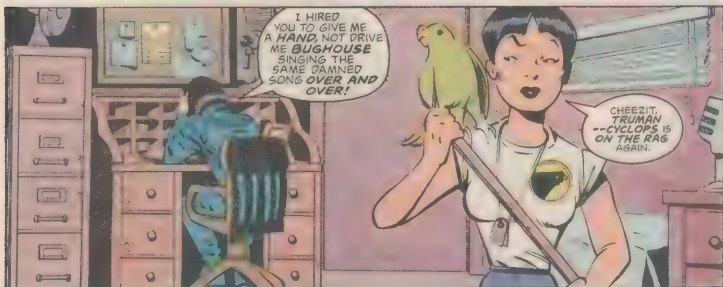
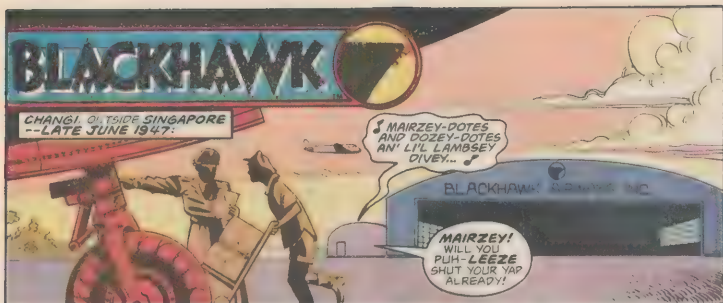
—Mike Gold

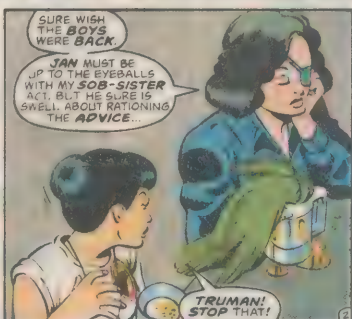
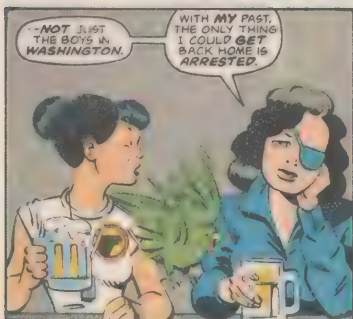
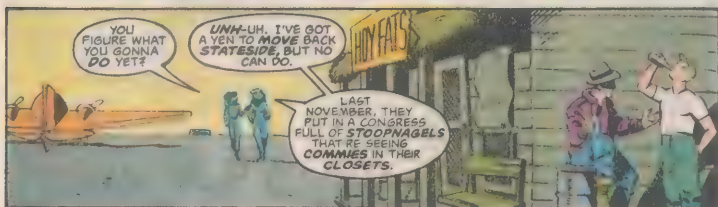
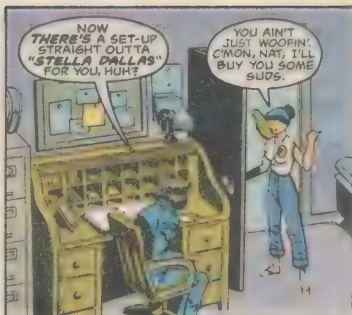
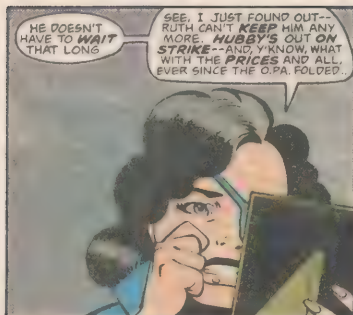
***** VOTE! *****

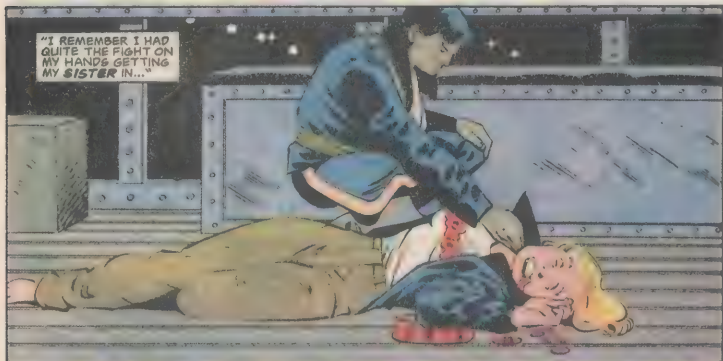
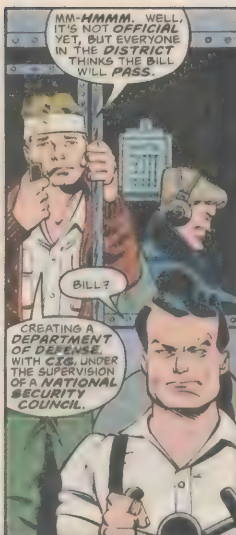
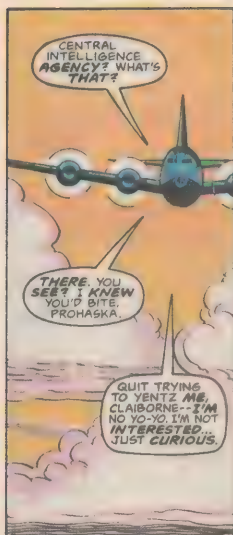
Just as soon as you've finished this issue of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY—write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference: the one you like the most first, the one you liked second second, and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so VOTE! Send your ballots to:

Action Comics Weekly
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666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103









...AND A TIME TO GATHER STONES TOGETHER

WRITTEN BY
MARTIN PASKO

PENCILLED BY
RICK BURCHETT

INKED BY
JOHN NYBERG

LETTERED BY
STEVE HAYNIE

COLORLED BY
TOM ZIUKO

EDITED BY
MIKE GOLD



ANYWAY, THE BOYS IN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE HAVE HAD THEIR EYES ON YOU AND YOUR MEN EVER SINCE THE WAR ENDED.

AFTER THAT BUSINESS WITH DEATH MAYHEW, THEY KNEW THEY'D WANT THE AMERICAN "BLACKHAWKS" ON THEIR TEAM SOMEDAY.



SO ADMIRAL HILLENKOETTER --THE DIRECTOR-- SENT WORD THROUGH GENERAL WRIGHT THAT I WAS TO...USE YOU ON THIS OPERATION.

A GOOD WAY TO...GET OUR FEET WET WITH EACH OTHER, SO TO SPEAK.



NO DICE, CLAIBORNE. I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THOSE FEET SMELL.

EXCUSE ME, JAN-- TROUBLE.



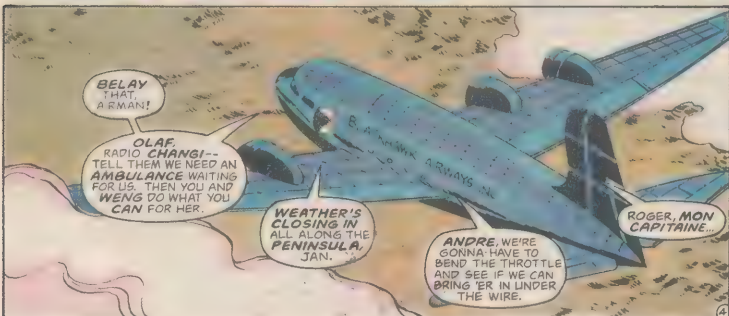
THE GIRL LOOKS LIKE SHE TOOK SOME FLAK WHEN VAN DER HOUTEN FIRED ON US. *

MARCIA?!

I'M STILL GETTING A PULSE, BUT IT LOOKS BAD.

I'LL HANDLE THIS--

*IN ACW#622--MIKE



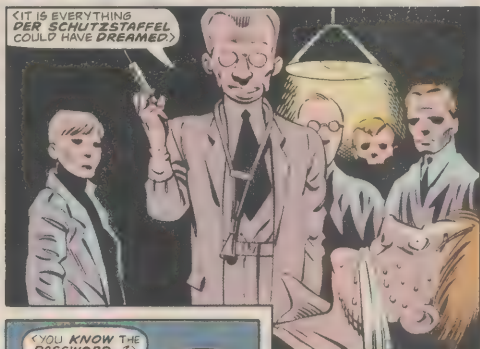
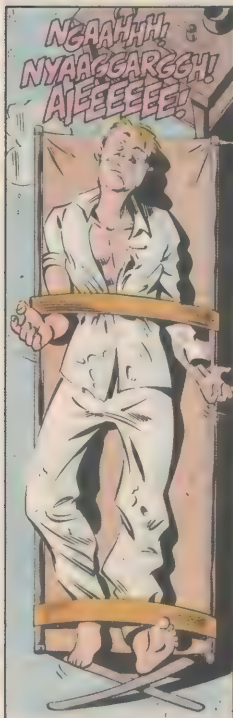
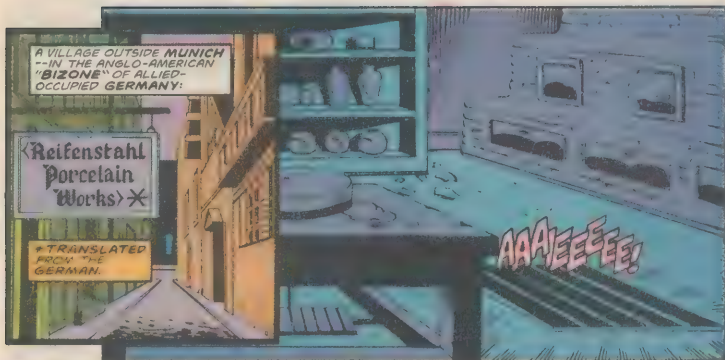
BELAY THAT, ARMAN!

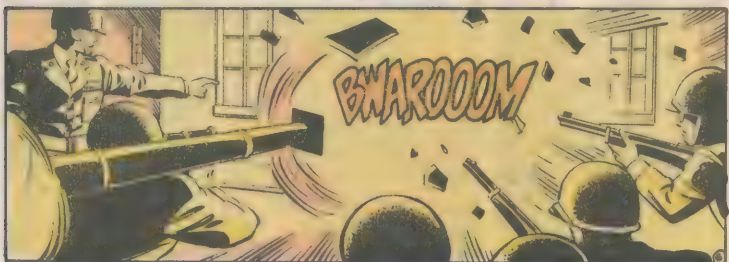
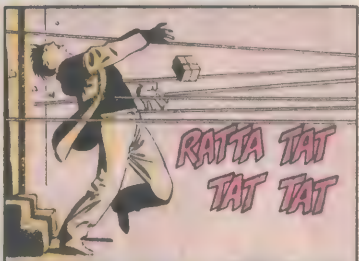
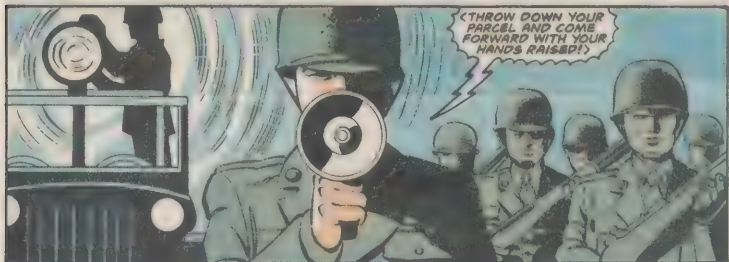
OLAF, RADIO CHANGE-- TELL THEM WE NEED AN AMBULANCE WAITING FOR US. THEN YOU AND WENG DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR HER.

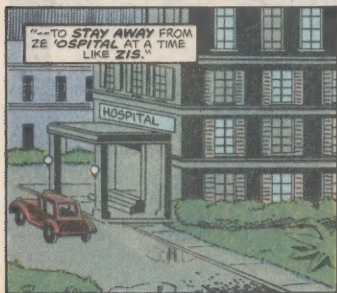
WEATHER'S CLOSING IN ALL ALONG THE PENINSULA, JAN.

ANDRE, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BEND THE THROTTLE AND SEE IF WE CAN BRING 'ER IN UNDER THE WIRE.

ROGER, MON CAPITAINE...







I will
show you
terror
in a
handful
of dust



SANDMAN™

HE CONTROLS YOUR DREAMS

A horror-edged fantasy,
set in the DC Universe.
Available monthly in
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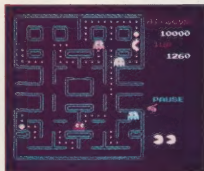
Written by Neil Gaiman,
writer of Black Orchid
Art by Sam Kieth and
Mike Dringenberg
Covers by Dave McKean

Suggested For Mature Readers

Nintendo® gamers, the biggest hit of the decade is back — just for you!

Yes, the ever-lovable, ever-ravenous PAC-MAN is back! If you remember the incredible excitement he generated, you're ready to relive the phenomenon. And if you missed him the first time around, you're in for the most fun you've ever had on the Nintendo Entertainment System®!

PAC-MAN is ready at your command to blaze around the baffling maze, gobbling up dots, swallowing the occasional fruits and



Guide PAC-MAN around the maze to eat all the dots without getting eaten by the hungry ghosts.



racking up the points.

Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde, the not-so-friendly ghosts, are dying to do some gobbling, too. Except their favorite food is PAC-MAN!

His only defense is to eat the energizers, special pellets which empower PAC-MAN to

gobble the ghosts — but only for a short while! With each level, the energizers' effectiveness decreases. As you clear each maze the ghosts move faster.

Remember, it's a jungle out there. So gobble — or get gobbled!

TENGEN

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